

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6589

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CINCLANT

ALL NATO CAPITALS 4196

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3707

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: DRC DISCUSSION JULY 2, 1974 OF USE OF WARNING TIME

REF: A. USNATO 3418

B. USNATO 2230

C. STATE 75864

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SUBJECT OF NATO'S USE OF WARNING TIME SURFACED DURING THE JULY 2 DRC DISCUSSION OF THE COURSE OF FUTURE DRC/EWG WORK. A NATO STUDY ON THE SUBJECT IS NOT PROGRAMMED AT THIS TIME BUT SYG LUNS WILL CIRCULATE A PO INDICATING USE OF WARNING TIME AS AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE. WHEN THE DPC CONSIDERS THIS PO, MISSION PROPOSES WE ENDORSE AGAIN THE NEED FOR SUCH A STUDY AND RECOMMEND THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE UNDERTAKE THE WORK. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING DRC DISCUSSION JULY 2 TURKISH REP (TOPOR) ASKED WHAT ACTION WAS CONTEMPLATED PURSUANT TO THE TURKISH CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERIAL SUGGESTION THAT NATO DO MORE IN STUDYING USE OF WARNING TIME (REPORTED PARA 6 REF A).

2. IN REPLY, HUMPHREYS STATED THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION

THAT SUCH A STUDY WAS IN HAND BY THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE (COEC). HOWEVER. WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS (VINCENT) WAS ASKED TO DESCRIBE WORK IN THIS AREA, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE COEC HAD NOT BEEN TASKED TO CONDUCT SUCH A STUDY BUT WAS WORKING ON ESTABLISHING MACHINERY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POLITICO-MILITARY ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATING NATO PROCEDURES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, INTELLIGENCE, AND OTHER DATA RELATING TO EVENTS OUTSIDE THE NATO AREAS. WORK IN THESE AREAS WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL AFFECT ON NATO' USE OF WARNING TIME, BUT A STUDY BEARING DIRECTLY ON THE SUBJECT WAS NOT PROGRAMMED. VINCENT ALSO REFERRED TO PREVIOUS WORK BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AVAILABLE TO NATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE USED AS GUIDE TO HELP NATO ANALYZE USE OF WARNING TIME.

3. BASED ON THIS INFORMATION, HUMPHREYS AGREED THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE, BUT HE COULD NOT, AT THIS TIME, SUGGEST WHO SHOULD CARRY OUT WORK RELATED TO USE OF WARNING TIME. HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT PERHAPS IT WAS A MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM AND THAT THE TIMING OF ALERT ACTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MORE FULLY IN USE OF WARNING TIME. US REP (BOWMAN) POINTED OUT THAT NATO'S TAKING MILITARY ACTIONS UNDER THE ALERT SYSTEM WAS NOT THE REAL PROBLEM IN USE OF WARNING TIME. INSTEAD TIMELY NATIONAL AND NATO ACTIONS NEEDED BEFORE ACTIVATION OF THE ALERT SYSTEM WERE OF MORE CONCERN.

4. DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT CONCLUDED WITH HUMPHREYS STATING THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE USE OF WARNING TIME AS AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE IN THE PO HE WAS PREPARING FOR THE SYG TO CIRCULATE. THIS PO WILL FOLLOW-UP ON THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND DELINEATE THE COURSE OF FUTURE DPC/EWG WORK.

5. COMMENT: THE US PREVIOUSLY RAISED THIS ISSUE AT THE APRIL 24, 1974 MEETING OF THE DPC WHICH CONSIDERED POSSI-CONFIDENTIAL

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BLE RELEVANT LESSONS FOR NATO FROM THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR (REF B REFERS). MISSION PROPOSES THAT, WHEN THE DPC CONSIDERS THE SYG PO MENTIONED ABOVE, WE AGAIN ENDORSE THE NEED FOR A STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVE USE OF WARNING TIME AND RECOMMEND THE COEC UNDERTAKE THE WORK. IN SO DOING WE WOULD DRAW ON REF C. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
GOODBY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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